



Stunning stained glass
Breslau artisan's hobby has turned into a business, and that's just the way she likes it.

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SPOKE

A learning newsroom for journalism students

Head-to-head

Spoke reporters debate who will be the next Stanley Cup champions.

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Not so safe

Book tells us how U.S. government's encryption standard was cracked.

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Monday, April 10, 2006

Conestoga College, Kitchener, Ont.

www.conestogac.on.ca/spoke

38th Year — No. 10



(Photo by Lee Evans)

A little sappy

Vincent Rogister, a Grade 6 student, has a taste test of sap from a maple tree to check the quality. He was helping to gather sap the old-fashioned way in a sugar bush near Chesley, with buckets and a horse-drawn sled. Six hundred gallons of sap were collected, which, when boiled down, produced 60 litres of tasty maple syrup.

Tech survey to help college next year

By JON YANEF

Conestoga's information technology (IT) services survey, which was held Feb. 22 through 26, received its largest response from any online poll the college has conducted.

The survey was advertised on the college website and sent via e-mail to all full-time student accounts, where 952 students completed the 38 questions on the survey. It also provided several recommendations to help with IT services' annual budgeting process.

The survey was last held about three years ago and will now be done on an annual basis.

Richard Gibson, chief officer, IT services, said they were impressed with the responses because in the past they received about 300-400 responses to a survey.

"I think a couple of reasons factored into the high results," he said. "Making the survey available online made it easier and quicker to handle and three iPod Nanos were given out as prizes. Three random students were selected and they get to pick the colour of their unit, what they want engraved and a presentation will be held for the students in the CSI offices."

According to the survey, the Doon campus had the majority of responses with 904, while Waterloo and Guelph only had 27 and 19 responses respectively. It asked how many students used the

college e-mail system, with 85 per cent saying they did.

Gibson said the survey was an excellent tool to ensure they are meeting the needs of students.

"We want to ensure we have the appropriate computing resources, such as the software that's required for project and group work or any individual project requirements," said Gibson.

The software titles in most demand and to be increased in the open access labs are AutoCad, MasterCam, Solidworks, Inventor, Simply Accounting, SPSS, CanTax, SAM, Corel Draw, Macromedia Suite, Dreamweaver, Adobe Creative Suite, Photoshop and Illustrator.

IT services will also increase the open access seats by adding more computers and disk space quota and will purchase licences and implement off-campus access to appropriate software. There will also be increased supervision with more monitors to reduce the amount of game playing and noise in the open access labs.

They will review the cleanliness of labs, printer reliability and paper availability and status of staplers and punches.

Gibson said he was happy with the recommendations given by students.

"I think we had several thoughtful responses. Very few weren't helpful," he said.

He said technology enhancement fee revenue is based on the project-

ed enrolment for next year. They project the number of students who will be enrolled for the spring (600), fall (5,800) and winter (5,500) semesters and those numbers are multiplied by the technology semester fee (\$107) per semester, which gives IT services \$1,273,300 a year. Including the college's contribution (\$200,000), money left over from the previous year (\$143,469) and money from direct IT staffing and software licences (\$913,493), \$2,530,262 is available to IT services for the 2006/07 academic year.

Gibson said he was impressed with the number of students who have taken advantage of wireless Internet in the college. According to the survey results, nearly 45 per cent of participants said they had used the wireless Internet service, which was implemented in October in common areas throughout the college, such as the learning resource centre and the Sanctuary.

"I'm really happy with the wireless at the college," said CSI vice-president Andrew Mercier. "I'm ecstatic we're getting that type of technology at the college and this cuts down on the use in the open access labs. We are hoping students will take their laptops into the Student Centre and get homework done there."

Gibson said other than wireless, IT services will provide PCs to the Student Centre to be used for drop-in use. They will be paid for through the technology fee.

Job hunting? Career services can help

By STEPH BAULK

Are you freaked out about finding a full-time job after graduation? What about a returning student looking to make some money over the summer?

If you fall under the "poor student who needs to make money" category, then the job fair at Conestoga College is the place to be.

For the past three years the college has hosted the job fair, which is something career services has initiated to make it easier for employers to come on campus and meet Conestoga students.

The job fair was originally supposed to be held in mid-March, however, because of the strike it was postponed until April 19 and 20. It will be held in the E-wing of the college from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Sara Free, a career services officer at the college, said this year the fair is for any student looking for work, whether it is after graduation or during the summer months.

"It would be suitable for someone looking for a job after they graduate and it will also be suitable for someone just looking for a summer job," she said.

There is a theme each day of the fair. April 19 is engineering, information technology and business and April 20 is health sciences, community services and biotechnology.

"The job fair is an opportunity to go up to an actual person who works at a company and hand them your resume and talk with them, which is always better than sending it out in cyberspace and hoping (an employer) gets it," she said.

Free said the turnout for the job fair is generally very good and she is hoping this year it won't be any different, even though it was delayed because of the strike.

She says she understands it is a busy time for students but because there's no travelling involved it should make it easier for students to attend.

"So before class or in between class, if you know who you are going to see, it will take a student two minutes to introduce him or herself to a few different employers," said Free. "A student probably isn't going to be interested in all 60 employers, but maybe five or six. So I really hope the change isn't going to destroy (the job fair) too much, but like I said before, it's on campus so students can be here and still get a bit of job hunting done."

Free said in the past there have been a lot of students who show up for the job fair, but what she's really trying to stress this year is to be prepared.

"Showing up is great, but being prepared with a good resume that has been looked at and critiqued and also looking at the guidebook so you know a little bit about the company you are interested in is important for students to consider," she said.

"It's always better than going up to a company and asking them what they do."

The guidebook for the job fair is a booklet career services put together with all the employers who are attending the job fair, their contact information and a description of the company and the positions that are available. The book also makes for a handy research tool.

Because of the strike, some attending employers had to cancel, so an updated version of the book is available for pick-up in the career services office.

Free encourages students to go to the career services office to have their resume looked over.

"At this time of year students usually need to make an appointment, but we can set something up before the fair and students can come in and get the guidebook as well," she said.

To set up an appointment with Free students can call her at 748-5220, ext. 3340 or e-mail her at sfree@conestogac.on.ca.

"E-mail is always good. Students can give me a couple of days that are good for them and I can get back to them and confirm a day," she said.

Students should bring a resume to the appointment so Free can give them advice on it and see what experience they have.

"If a student has never developed a resume before I suggest they go to our career services website, where we have tip sheets, or drop by the office and pick up a few sheets to get a sense of how to put it together in a basic format so we can go through a resume, change things and alter things and make it really great," she said. "The appointment generally takes about a half hour."

Free said the employers who are attending the job fair are really excited to have students come with their resumes because that's the whole reason they're there.

Continued on Page 2

Job fair convenient

Continued from Page 1

"At this time of year students usually need to make an appointment, but we can set something up before the fair and students can come in and get the guidebook as well," she said.

It's not like a career fair. There's sort of a subtle difference between a career fair and a job fair. A career fair is usually more for finding out about positions or for an employer to educate people about what they do and potentially get resumes down the road.

"A job fair is really focused on the jobs where they have positions and they want to meet you and they want you to apply."

Free said the job fair is beneficial to students because a student can

always go on a job hunting site or look in the paper, but there always has to be that extra effort to make sure they're connecting with the employer.

But because the employers are at the college students can talk to them and sell themselves on why they would be a good employee.

"Because it is a job fair and it is an opportunity for students to go in and talk to employers, if you were to see something in the guidebook that looked more like a full-time position and you're really interested in that company but you're searching for summer or part-time employment, I would always encourage students to talk to that company anyways," she said.

"You never know, people go on vacation and the company may need to cover a good portion of the summer, so you might just be in the right place at the right time," said Free.

If you are unable to attend the job fair, career services also has thousands of jobs posted yearly on their website. Just click on the job posting link on the career services web page, enter the username, careerservices and the password, usearch4jobs.

If you are a graduating student or were just unable to meet with a career services officer, but would like help with your resume, career services is open during the summer and to all graduates as well.

Now deep thoughts ...with Conestoga College

Random questions answered by random students

What has been your best or worst Easter experience?

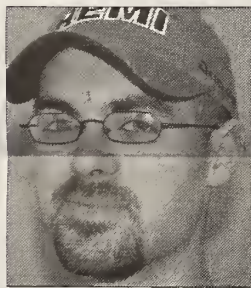


"Each year with family, all generations, we get together and socialize."

Andrew Chipperfield,
second-year
management studies

"I was 10 and my mom dressed me up in a little bunny costume and showed me off to all of my family."

Danielle Dyce,
first-year general arts
and science



"Last year we bought a piñata and the whole family came over, it was a lot of fun seeing all of them."

Josh Vince,
third-year robotics

"I always work on Easter."

Sayed Ashraf,
second-year accounting



"Having the egg hunt in the morning was always fun."

Laura Umplby,
first-year general arts
and science



"When I was a little kid and got chocolate, candy and clothes."

Joy Raven,
human services
foundation



"At my grandparents in Windsor we decorated eggs with crayons and food colouring."

Kristen Klassen,
human services
foundation



Smile Conestoga, you could be our next respondent!

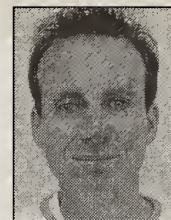
Mechanics underappreciated

It was only recently that I received the scare of my life as my brakes gave out and my car rolled through a red light and into the intersection. I had to thank my lucky stars since it was early morning and there wasn't any traffic coming from the opposite direction just perpendicular to my disabled vehicle.

Cautiously I continued to make my way to a local garage where I was greeted with a warm smile from one of the mechanics. I explained the situation feeling like I was discussing my ailments with the triage nurse in an emergency room. As the mechanic escorted my four-wheeled counterpart into the mechanized operating room and up onto the hoist for its examination, I paced back and forth sipping my complimentary coffee, anxiously waiting to hear the prognosis. I realized how uncanny it was how much we depended on doctors and mechanics and all the work they do.

We sit in the waiting room as a loved one receives a needed blood transfusion just as we sit in the front office as our car receives a needed overdue oil change. Arthritic and damaged joints are replaced with new and improved replicas as are aged and worn parts on our vehicles.

With the amount of time we



Eric
Murphy

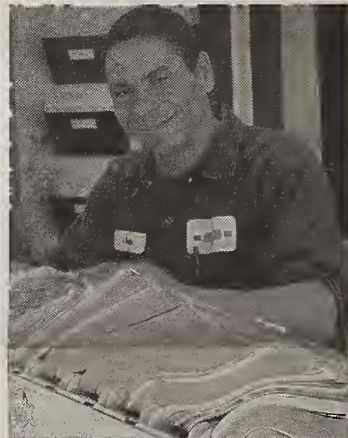
Opinion

spend travelling from one place to another it is remarkable how much mechanics are taken advantage of. Certainly, the comparison between doctors saving lives and mechanics fixing cars may seem slightly extreme to most, however, do we realize the amount of trust we put in mechanics.

They tend to these multi-ton pieces of machinery so that we can continue to so non-chalantly place family members in the passenger seats and travel at high rates of speed to get to our next destination safely.

People have relied on mechanics for decades yet they continue to get the short end of the "dipstick," being called "grease monkeys," a derogatory comparison to a dumb, dirty baboon oiling up car parts for scraps.

The actions of a small number of non-trustworthy mechanics have unfortunately painted this group of hard workers as crooked cheaters trying to overcharge for minimal



(Photo by Eric Murphy)

Justin Fitzgerald, owner of the True Center Garage and Auto Sales in Guelph, looks for parts in a parts directory.

work and unnecessary procedures.

We moan and groan about the length of time we wait for our cars to be looked at and we sit in disbelief when we're told the reason for our mechanical woes is because we haven't changed the oil for the last 10 months. Last but not least we complain about our bill, unkindly trying to barter for a better price as if at a flea market or garage sale.

Do we ever think about the dirty, salty snow dripping into a concerned mechanics face as he or she tends to a large hole in the exhaust?

Has anyone ever noticed the amount of bumps, bruises, burns and cuts mechanics gather over a day? Or ask how many hot embers from torch-cut pipes have fallen into their sleeve or down the back of their shirts?

Of course we haven't because we never think of it, but what we also don't realize is that mechanics don't think about it either. Despite injury upon injury, working in sometimes unbearable heat with flaming torches, under wet, salty-snow dripping cars, underpaid and underappreciated most of the time, mechanics continue to do their jobs and do them well.

So next time you have the urge to complain and kick your mechanic in the "exhaust," perhaps a handshake and thank-you will suffice, after all not everyone is out to give you the "shaft."

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Prime Minister shouldn't hide from the media

Prime Minister Stephen Harper believes Canadians have no right to know when the federal cabinet is meeting.

Under previous governments, cabinet meetings of the federal government were announced in advance and reporters then gathered outside the cabinet room to question ministers as they entered or exited the meeting.

Harper and his cabinet met in secret March 28 and, as reported by Canadian Press (CP), a national news-gathering agency, in a March 28 article, extra House of Commons security were present to discourage journalists from trying to snap photos or ask questions of the Prime Minister and his ministers.

Although journalists are now unable to question ministers outside cabinet, Harper claims he will be available to answer "questions of substance."

Former prime ministers, including Jean Chretien, allowed ministers to speak to the media in scrums. It wasn't detrimental to government - it allowed them to speak their minds and communicate through the media with the Canadian public.

The Conservative party defends Harper's decision not to announce the meetings, saying the media will be improved by the restriction.

The Conservative Leader of the Government in the House of Commons, Rob Nicholson, appeared on CTV's Question Period April 2 and gave an example to illustrate how the media could be improved.

He said when journalists accompanied Harper on his recent trip to visit Canadian troops in Afghanistan, a reporter wrote a story about the vest Harper wore.

Harper was again criticized last week for wearing the same khaki vest to the international summit in Cancun with Mexican president Vicente Fox and U.S. president George Bush, both who wore crisp white shirts.

Media claimed it showed his inexperience, but Harper's staff counter is shows how trivial the press can be.

The Liberals and the NDP side with the media, saying when the Conservatives only allow for press releases and not scrums, democracy is restricted.

As the Prime Minister so well-known for insisting on government accountability, Harper doesn't seem to be living up to his own words if he will not allow journalists to ask questions after a cabinet meeting.

By restricting the media from outside the cabinet, he is restricting all news, not just what he deems futile.

Immigration minister Monte Solberg is quoted in the CP article as saying "the public respects a government that has its act together before it comes down and stands in front of a microphone."

To some that might ring true, but to many Canadians it looks like Harper and his MPs have something to hide.

Furthermore, Harper has also limited ministers, since he now wants final approval on communications leaving their offices, including letters to the editors sent to newspapers.

Harper might think he's improving the media, and by doing so, improving the image of his government. What it really looks like is a deceptive move to hide the facts from Canadians.

If he wants accountability, he needs to be the leader he claimed to be during the election, and allow the media to do their job.



The 'alone' star state

With the recent strike taking place there hasn't been much learning going on around Conestoga College.

However, there was one thing that I did learn while being off on reading week though; travelling by yourself can be just as much fun as going with a group of your friends.

During our reading week at the end of February I decided that I would take a trip to McKinney, Texas. Why McKinney you ask? This small little city is located about an hour outside of Dallas and wasn't close to the noise and hustle and bustle of the big city.

That's the exact vacation I was looking for. I needed to get away from the schoolwork and rushing to my part-time jobs. However, I did panic about getting all the necessary assignments in and completed before I hopped the plane for the Lone Star state.

Things seemed bleak at the beginning of the trip and it looked as though it could be the making of a really boring and dismal vacation. McKinney isn't that big and there



Todd Rellinger

Opinion

weren't many attractions to make the trip worth going down for.

But after getting settled into my hotel and picking up my rental car, I just started to drive. It's amazing how much more you see and need to pay attention to when you are all by yourself.

Landmarks, street signs and your knowledge of which way north, east, south and west are become an even more valuable tool if you ever want to make it back to your hotel again.

The greatest thing about traveling by yourself is that there is never a schedule to follow. I have been on trips before where the trip has been scheduled so tight that I didn't even have time to blink and enjoy myself.

Obviously I didn't have this problem. I did what I wanted, when I wanted to. So sleeping in was actually sleeping in and if I enjoyed my breakfast at 1:30 p.m., then so be it.

I actually got to do everything I wanted for once. I didn't have to ask permission from a group if there was a mall I wanted to browse in and I ate at any restaurant I chose.

Some people might ask if I was lonely and who I talked to while I was there. The answer is no. When I visited the mall or had lunch or dinner I would simply talk to the wait staff who served me. I asked them what I should see or do while in the south and the heart of Texas. But, as I mentioned, seeing the sights and sounds wasn't really part of my plans.

I was content enjoying the 25 C weather, sitting by the pool and enjoying a cocktail, while here in southern Ontario it was just plain nasty, with freezing rain and snow.

I think this was one of the most relaxing vacations I have had in a long time.

Letters are welcome



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No unsigned letters will be published. Letters should be no longer than 500 words.

Spoke reserves the right to edit any letter for publication.

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'Scoring' the perfect creation

By CHANTELLE TIMPERLEY

It's easy to fall through the cracks with certain hobbies when your project goes awry, but one wrong cut can make a stained glass project fall to pieces.

Stained glass is a practise dating back to the gothic ages in Europe. It was most often used in church windows, and according to the-storefinder.com, many believed that creating beautiful things would lift man's soul closer to God.

Sara Spencer, a new resident of Breslau, has been working with stained glass for close to two years, designing window panels and smaller projects, like cardholders and nightlights.

Spencer's interest in it piqued when her mother started making stepping stones for her yard with broken pieces of scrap glass and cement circles. It was a family tradition for everyone who came to the house to make one, and when they were done they were put in the garden.

To begin a stained glass project, you first need to make two to three copies of the pattern you wish to use.

Cut the pattern along the lines carefully before gluing them to your pieces of glass. Layout is important. You try to use as much of one sheet of glass as possible, making sure to leave enough room to cut your lines.

Glass cutters are used to score the lines in the glass that you will use to break the pieces apart. They have a wheel that runs along the surface of the glass, and oil inside the cutter helps ease the wheel across smoothly.

Spencer is designing a tropical fish for a customer and uses a blue rippled sheet of glass for the water background. The flat side of the glass should be the side that is cut.

As Spencer goes to cut a long line across her sheet, she explains that you can only score the glass once because the glass will split off feeder lines or crack the wrong way.

She pulls out a pair of pliers used to break the glass, called grozers. The glass isn't brittle enough in certain spots, and it cracks the wrong way. She has to redo it a couple times until she gets it right.

Geometry and carefulness are two crucial components to creating a piece.

"(Stained glass) is a very tedious hobby," she says. "You have to use creativity with your patterns. It's all about symmetry."

Equally important are curves in the design. Since glass breaks in straight lines, it's not possible to cut on curves.

Straight lines have to be cut around the shape until the edges can be broken down.

However, curves can be carved into the surface and will break using a smaller version of the grozers, called nippers.

When doing panels for windows, Spencer says the key is to com-

plete the centerpiece first so that the background can be fitted around it. You don't want to alter the main piece.

"Lines are important within any pattern," she notes. "Too many is distracting and won't allow the image to jump out."

It can also cause the piece to be too heavy and eventually crack or break, making it difficult to replace or fix.

When she finally gets all the background pieces cut, Spencer puts on a pair of blue overalls and carries them to the back of her office closet. There is a loud screech as she presses the edges of the pieces against a grinder and shaves them down to fit around her centerpiece.

That is the most difficult and time-consuming part of any project, she says.

When the pieces fit just right she grabs a string of copper foil and wraps it around the edges of each piece of glass. The method of stained glass Spencer follows is a more modern one called the copper foil method, which came about in the middle of the 20th century. It gives the artist more control over the finished product than the more old-fashioned lead method.

A product called solder, a combination of 60 per cent tin and 40 per cent lead, is used to weld the pieces of glass together. It sticks to the foil and is applied with a solder gun, reaching temperatures of 700 F. Temperatures hotter than that can cause the glass to get too hot and shatter.

Spencer pins all her pieces down on a piece of corkboard and makes sure they won't move, and brushes on a glue-like substance called flux with a wire brush. It cleans the surface and helps the solder to stick to the foil, but must be removed after so that it doesn't turn the solder black. It can be washed off with flux remover, but soap and water will cause oxidization.

As she presses the solder gun to the solder, there's a sizzle and the pieces blend together. It's not long before they

cool, and they can be flattened out later if the end product is still bumpy. The tropical fish panel, she says, has taken nearly two weeks to complete.

Spencer finds designing with stained glass to be a better alternative to regular glass, especially in the home.

"I like letting light through, but I find with stained glass you can still have privacy without making it too dark in the room," she says.

She also likes that she's able to do something that suits her personality, allowing her to work at her own pace.

Her favourite part is being able to continue doing one thing and never get bored.

"It's endless possibilities if you keep an open mind to create patterns yourself," she says. "You can choose from hundreds of colours and textures of glass."

The largest project Spencer has done so far was a Haida mask she made for her dad, who lives in the Yukon Territory. It was a two feet by two feet circular Haida mask that she made from a piece of jewellery.

She had to make the pattern herself and it ended up being close to 100 pieces.

The strangest request she says she's gotten was someone asking for three large panels that would not be used in windows. The woman who asked for them wanted to put them on a mantle as pieces of art.

"Most stained glass is put in a window or in front of light like a lamp," she says. "I've never had anyone want stained glass artwork that's not a 3-D piece or not for a window."

Spencer is able to complete three small projects in a week, but larger ones costing \$120 or more take two or three weeks.

The the cost of a project depends on the length of time and the supplies needed.

Stained glass is a hobby Spencer says she plans to continue for a long time.

"When I first started doing it I thought it would just be a hobby, but when I started selling it I wanted to turn it into a business," she said. "There may be 100 people doing it, but in 20 years I want to be as good as they are."

Anyone interested in learning more about the hobby or looking into having a piece made for holidays, birthdays or personal use, can contact her at 745-9676.

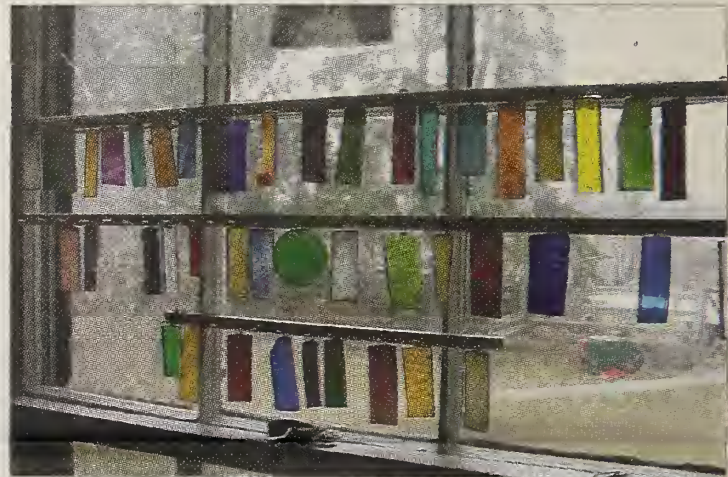
TIPS

- 1) Always wear safety glasses.
- 2) Use a separate broom and dustpan for cleaning up glass shards because you don't want it trailing elsewhere in the house.
- 3) Find a glass shop with courses that offer different levels.
- 4) Take a medium level class when you get started because it challenges you more.
- 5) Keep scraps because they come in handy.



(Photo by Chantelle Timperley)

Butterflies hang in the window of Sara Spencer's home. They are included in her binder of available designs for anyone interested.



(Photo by Chantelle Timperley)

Spencer has a wide selection of glass colours and textures for customers to choose from.



(Photos by Chantelle Timperley)

Above, Spencer's tropical fish took close to two weeks to complete, which she designed for a friend in Sault Ste. Marie. Pieces of paper with the measurements were used to cut and fit the background pieces around the main piece.

Below, the finished panel will be put in her customer's bathroom window.



The sweet, sweet taste of maple syrup

By TIM GEDCKE

Although the town of Elmira has a population of under 10,000 people, it was the destination of many more on Saturday, April 1, as the town held their 42nd annual maple syrup festival.

The event is in the book of Guinness World Records for the largest maple syrup festival in the world.

Every year on the first Saturday of April people come from many places, both near and far, to celebrate the start of spring, and to celebrate the sweet, sticky syrup.

"It's maple syrup. The sweetness of it reminds people that it's getting close to spring so they come to Elmira to see all this," said the mayor of Woolwich Township, Bill Strauss. "Woolwich is known for a lot of agriculture, and that's what maple syrup is."

The chairperson of the festival, Doug McLean, said it's quite obvious why people come to the festival year after year.

"People come out and enjoy the beginning of spring," he said. "There's always something a little different to see, and they obviously love maple syrup. The sweet taste of maple syrup really draws people out."

McLean, who recently retired from the engineering department of Bell Canada Enterprises, said people who have never been to the festival before come because they hear how wonderful it is from other people and are curious as to what it is.

"They wonder why so many people would come to one small town for a day in the springtime," he said. "The reason is they come to see what's going on. There is all kinds of food to eat in the mall, there are crafts to buy and see, there are toy shows and dog shows and the antique show has gotten to be a big deal."

Megan Timmerman, a student at the University of Guelph, said she attended the festival for her first time because her friends told her she should.

"Kids at school said it was a big event and a lot of fun," she said. "My favourite food was the fudge: we ate lots of fudge. And the back-bacon-on-a-bun was really good as well."

One of the major attractions of the festival is the mall. Every year, there are more than 100 booths set up in the downtown core selling every-

thing from sausages and apple fritters to artwork and sunglasses. They also, of course, sell maple syrup.

McLean said between 80 per cent and 85 per cent of vendors come back to the festival year after year.

Many of the booths are set up by church groups and community organizations.

Jean Hill was helping sell food for The Church of the Good Shepherd.

"Our church is doing a fundraiser," she said. "It's our first time, so we didn't really know what to expect."

Hill and other volunteers from the church sold maple syrup-covered popcorn, Kool-Aid and maple sugar treats.

"Our church decided to sell snacks instead of main food," she said. "At noon hour, everyone was eating their other food, and we didn't sell very much during that time."

McLean said the organizing team encountered one major problem early on in preparations for the event.

"The biggest problem we had was convincing people that we need some new volunteers to come out and help us," he said. "But they turned out big time."

Bill Cummings, one of the approximately 60 volunteers who helped serve pancakes and maple syrup to thousands of festival-goers, is one of those volunteers who decided to offer his services when he found out the event needed help.

"I found out from my church (Trinity United Church in Kitchener) that they needed volunteers and a lot of people from the church already do it," he said. "It's fun because there are a lot of people here."

The weather is always a key topic of discussion at the festival.

The temperature was just under 10 C, with the sun rarely creeping through the clouds.

"This year the weather was better than last year, but it is still a little nasty," said Strauss.

However, McLean said he disagrees.

"Oh this isn't cold, no way. Cold is when you're freezing and there's lots of snow on the ground," he said.

But McLean said that based on past experiences, the festival does better on cloudy, cool days than it does on warm, sunny days.

"(On cooler days) people come and enjoy something nice and warm to eat, and if they want to buy something they buy it right away

then go home," he said. "But on a sunny day, they stay longer and say 'well, I'll come back to get that,' then eventually get tired and go home without buying anything."

The Guinness record for the largest maple syrup festival currently stands at 66,529, set by Elmira in their 36th annual event six years ago.

However, McLean said the actual number was higher than listed.

"We know we didn't get them all counted, so it was probably somewhere around 75,000," he said.



(Photo by Tim Gedke)

The Elmira Maple Syrup Festival is in the Guinness World Records for the largest such event in the world. Elmira set the record six years ago at the 36th annual festival, which had 66,529 people in attendance. Above, festival-goers try their hand at sawing a log the old-fashioned way. The event also featured lots of arts and crafts, and food galore.

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- Dress for success to make a great first impression.
- Network on your own instead of in a group, and stand out from the crowd.



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(Photo by Tim Gedke)

The Elmira Maple Syrup Festival was held on April 1, drawing more than 75,000 people to the event. Participants enjoyed the sweet, sticky syrup on various food items, as well as an antique show, dog show and over 100 vendors.

How safe are the files holding our information?

By JASON SONSER

How safe is the information we store on our computers? I'm sure that's a question which has crossed the minds of most of us at one point or another.

We can set up firewalls on our computers, install anti-virus programs and encrypt our files. Heck, we can even set up passwords which can restrict others from actually logging onto and using our computers.

However, how do we know our computers and our information is truly safe?

The book *Brute Force: Cracking the Data Encryption Standard* by Matt Curtin describes how a team of thousands of people running thousands of computers across the United States and Canada, in a well-established co-ordinated effort, cracked an encrypted message.

This file wasn't just your ordinary, run-of-the-mill protected message. This true story takes place in the later half of the 1990s, when the United States' Data Encryption Standard (DES) was the common encryption software used by most businesses, financial institutions and medical facilities to protect sensitive files, such as medical and financial records and private information.

DES was a 56-bit encryption software which helped protect such vital documents stored on computers. It is the computer equivalent to combination locks people use to lock up their bicycles or lockers. If people don't get the right combination, or "key," to unlock the encrypted file, all they get is gibberish.

In computer terms, bits are read in something called binary, which is a series of zeros and ones. If someone were trying to open an encrypted file using a one-bit encryption file, that person would

have two possibilities for a correct answer, either 0 or 1. If someone were trying to decrypt a two-bit encrypted file, they'd have four possible answers. Those answers would either be 00, 01, 10 or 11.

A 56-bit program would have over 72 quadrillion different "key" combinations. The calculation is 2^x , where 2 is the possible number of combinations in each bit, and x is the number of bits.

RSA Data Securities, a company which developed software to help protect files and information, held a number of contests in 1997 to test their own software, as well as a contest which asked participants to crack a DES-encrypted message, for a prize of \$10,000.

In response to this challenge, a group named DESCHALL was formed. The book states that Rock Verser, a computer programmer, programmed a client that would test the various keys to decrypt the message, naming the files DESCHAL4.exe for Intel 486 processors and DESCHAL5.exe for Pentium 586 processors. Keep in mind that this contest was held in the mid-1990s.

The client program was installed on a computer. It then contacted a key server that Verser made via an Internet connection. The key server would give the client a set of keys to test. If the computer didn't find the right key to decrypt the message, it would contact the key server again, informing the key had not been found and would request another batch of keys to test.

By word of mouth and spreading the word on the Internet, the DESCHALL project grew into a gargantuan co-ordination which spanned all across North America. People ran the clients on their own

personal computers and at its peak, the DESCHALL project would test trillions of keys daily.

The importance of this project was that the United States believed their DES encryption software was invulnerable.

People like those involved in the DESCHALL project were trying to prove that the DES was weak and the encryption could be penetrated by brute force in a short enough time span that the information could be used in harmful ways.

The United States claimed that it would take too long for the encryption to be hacked, that the information would become outdated or otherwise not useful.

In about six months after the DES challenge was announced, and after only one-quarter of the 72-quadrillion keys were tested, the right key was found by a computer in Salt Lake City, Utah.

The message was, "Strong cryptography makes the world a safer place."

After the right key was found, the United States implemented a better encryption standard.

The reason why DESCHALL could only have participants from the United States and Canada was that Verser's key searching client was implemented in the United States. Due to U.S. law at the time, any encryption and encryption-related software made in the U.S. could not be exported.

This book was a very good read for anyone interested in computer and encryption security. I found it informative, although I will admit I got bored at times. However, if you are interested in computers and how a group of motivated people changed encryption laws and security in the United States, this is the book for you.

COUNSELLOR'S CORNER: Community Resources

The counsellors at Student Services are here to help with issues that students face on a daily basis, but we're also here to help you connect with the many resources that are available in your area. We have information, brochures and contacts with social services, employment, housing, counselling and other agencies in Kitchener, Waterloo, Cambridge, Guelph and other communities.

Especially as the school year draws to a close for graduating students, it's important to make a connection with people and places outside the college. These resources can help you find an affordable home, find a car seat, baby clothes and toys, connect to counselling groups and workshops, or give a number to phone in a crisis. Specific professional support can be provided for pregnancy, alcohol and drug counselling, single parent and family supports, credit counselling, legal aid, and many other services.

If you're not sure where to go for help, just ask us. We'll help you get connected with the right people.

A Message from Student Services

Visit our website <http://www.conestogac.on.ca/jsp/stserv/index.jsp>



HOROSCOPE

Week of April 10, 2006



Aries
March 21 -
April 19

You're letting stress take over your life. It might feel like you have a lot of work to do, but remember that it will be worth it in the end. Strive for greatness this week! Lucky day: 16



Libra
September 23 -
October 22

Don't believe what every fortune cookie tells you, Libra. As nice as it sounds, luck is not around the corner. Be careful you don't lose something valuable. Lucky day: 13



Taurus
April 20 - May 20

Karma isn't just a nice idea. Try to perform an act of kindness this week. The reward may not be immediate, but you'll feel like a good contributor to society. Lucky day: 12



Scorpio
October 23 -
November 21

Try to kick a nasty habit this week. You have the power to resist and once you've stopped, you won't ever want to turn back. Take up a fun hobby to distract yourself. Lucky day: 10



Gemini
May 21 - June 21

Your love life might seem disastrous lately, but things could be looking up - you may meet that special someone! Form a trusting friendship first, and then watch as the sparks fly. Lucky day: 14



Sagittarius
November 22 -
December 21

For someone as in control as you are, you're pretty wound up. Take some deep breaths and calm down - you can't get your job done if you're freaking out. Lucky day: 11



Cancer
June 22 - July 22

Start planning your summer vacation now. But beware: pick a destination that won't cost you a fortune. A fun holiday doesn't have to cost you big bucks. Lucky day: 15



Capricorn
December 22 -
January 19

You might walk around this week and be constantly looking over your shoulder. Cut down on the late-night TV and horror movies. They're making you paranoid! Lucky day: 16



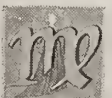
Leo
July 23 - August 22

Get in touch with a long lost friend this weekend, Leo. You may not remember why you lost touch, but you'll instantly remember why you were friends. It's about time to reconnect with your past. Lucky day: 12



Aquarius
January 20 -
February 18

Your creative juices are overflowing lately. Take some time and release your energy into something worthwhile like writing or painting. You may be pleasantly surprised with the end result. Lucky day: 16



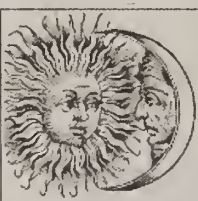
Virgo
August 23 -
September 22

Getting nervous about the fall already? Don't anticipate what is to come too negatively - often if you have a positive attitude, good things will happen without you even trying. Try to harness that energy. Lucky day: 14



Pisces
February 19 -
March 20

If you're having arguments with family this week, take a step back and cool off before continuing with the conversation. Whatever it is, it's not worth abandoning relationships for. Lucky day: 13



Paige Hilton is a third-year journalism student holding fate in the palm of her hand.

Head-to-head: Who will go all the way?

Sens are going to dominate

Flames will be hot, Senators - not

Those of you who have been reading any NHL article I've written will know I'm a fan of the Ottawa Senators. They are my home team, and I will stick by them till the end. So it won't come as a surprise when I pick the Sens as the Canadian team that will go all the way to win the Stanley Cup.

No one can deny this season they have dominated the league, and have by far been the most outstanding Canadian team. They lead the NHL in goals scored, and have the fewest goals against. They could be the first team to achieve this since the 1978 Montreal Canadiens. And, they have done this with numerous injuries in their ranks.

Once the playoffs start, injured players like high-scoring Martin Havlat (who has missed most of the season with a shoulder injury), centre Mike Fisher, the big defensive pair of Zdeno Chara and Chris Phillips and number 1 goalie Dominik Hasek, should all be returning to the lineup. They will be the team to beat in the Eastern Conference for sure.

With all these injuries throughout the season other players have stepped up and played fantastic. Veteran centre Smolinski was one, and former enforcer Chris Neil became a major contributor on the power play. Antoine Vermette's amazing speed and ability to score short-handed is something that is often underrated and overlooked this season. Rookies Chris Kelly and Patrick Eaves have been great as well, especially stepping up on the power play.

But the biggest surprises this season for the Sens have to be the play



Adam Black

Opinion

of rookie defenceman Andrej Meszaros and rookie goaltender Ray Emery.

Meszáros' defensive play has been spectacular. He leads the NHL in plus-minus with 38 (a stat that is totally dominated by Ottawa), and it looks like he's been taking lessons from Chara, because he has a blistering shot from the point as well.

But, when it comes to key players for Ottawa this year, you can't look over Emery. In a year where back-up goalies seem to be turning things around, he was a rookie goaltender who little was expected from. He has since silenced these critics. Since the injury to Hasek in the Olympics he has had a 12-3-2 record, taking over the number 1 position.

Now to move on from the surprises that the Sens have had this year to a line that is expected to dominate. Spezza, Alfredsson and Dany Heatley have combined for 100 goals and 159 assists for a total of 259 points. These guys have great chemistry together, and are feared all across the league. They will be a force to reckon with come playoff time.

All the pieces are in place. It is finally Ottawa's time to shine and win the biggest piece of hardware in the league, the Stanley Cup.

Excitement has reached its pinnacle, electricity has begun to flow through the veins of hockey fans across the globe, the enchanting aroma of blood and sweat fill the air, ah yes, it's that time of year again, stretch time in the NHL.

With the playoffs lurking over the horizon, all the Canadian teams, with the exception of the Toronto Maple Leafs, of course, have an excellent chance at cutting a slice of that sweet playoff pie.

But, which of the remaining five teams will open the jaws of greatness and venture the deepest into the hellacious war known as the Stanley Cup Playoffs.

Well, considering the Ottawa Senators currently have a whopping 105 points and sit atop the Eastern Conference standings, one would be enticed to wager a few bucks on this red hot club.

But then again, if you're the kind of fan who bets his or her money based on what happened in the regular season, chances are, your elevator doesn't go all the way to the top floor and you're in desperate need of a little history lesson.

Let's take the Boston Bruins for example.

In the 2004 and 2002 seasons, Boston finished first in the East and many experts pegged them as top Stanley Cup contenders.

Now, as any Montreal Canadian fan vividly remembers, led by brilliant goaltending, the eighth placed Habs upset the ferocious Bruins in the first round in both the 2002 and 2004 playoffs.



Nick Casselli

Opinion

The Ottawa Senators have also had more than their share of playoff devastations.

Four times in the past six post-seasons the Senators have fallen victim to the Leafs in the early rounds.

Above all else, shaky goaltending was the demise of the promising Senators teams of the past.

With Dominik Hasek on the sidelines, rookie goaltender Ray Emery has some large pads to fill in the 2006 playoffs.

Goaltending is the life blood of every team in the playoffs, and Emery's playoff action inexperience may be the breach in the seemingly impenetrable armour of the Ottawa Senators.

With the absence of the Dominator, Ottawa's early post-season departure is impending, but, on the bright side, they will become reacquainted with their golf clubs.

So, now the betting man is completely perplexed and is left without a Canadian team on which to bet.

Before betting one must calculate and theorize about what makes a championship team.

First and foremost, sparkling

goaltending, second, playoff experience, and third, team grit and chemistry.

So what Canadian team fills this description?

Simple, the Calgary Flames do. Miikka Kiprusoff has clearly proven he is a big time playoff performer.

He appeared virtually unbeatable in Calgary's miraculous Stanley Cup run of 2004, during which he posted five shutouts and a dazzling G.A.A (goals against average) of 1.85.

With kipper between the pipes and Calgary's punishing defensive staff, led by rookie sensation Dion Phaneuf protecting him, revealing the mesh will prove to be a difficult task for opposing teams to accomplish.

Jerome Iginla is no stranger to high-pressure games and will take on the leadership role guiding the Flames to the promised land known as the Stanley Cup Final.

Calgary currently sits in third position in the Western Conference and are well on their way to winning their division.

This is a team on a mission and retribution will be granted to Calgary after they were one disallowed goal away from kissing the most prestigious trophy hockey has to offer, Lord Stanley's Cup.

Canada's hope for the cup lies within Calgary, so if you are in fact foolish enough to bet on a Canadian team, go with the sure thing.

Calgary all the way.

MANAGING THE STRESS OF BEING A STUDENT

"People with goals succeed because they know where they're going". Earl Nightingale

Anyone who feels stress usually feels emotional discomfort and concern about not being able to cope. If you can identify ways of relieving tension, you will feel more motivated and more in control of your life.

STRATEGIES FOR COPING WITH STRESS

- * Personal factors have been attributed to a person's ability to handle stress. These include having a sense of control over your life, a network of support, a flexible attitude, and regular involvement in hobbies, sports, or outside interests.
- * There may be times when problems feel overwhelming. Sharing your worries and discussing solutions with another person can make a positive difference. Contact the Student Services Office to make an appointment with a counsellor. Don't hesitate to seek help from others.
- * Find ways to become a more relaxed person. Learn relaxation techniques (e.g. deep breathing, yoga, or music). Take regular breaks from studying: get up from your desk and go for a walk. Exercise is important: take up a sport, walk, or work out in the gym.
- * Develop a healthy lifestyle. Plan to eat with friends to maintain social contacts. Take a positive attitude toward your body image. Try to eat a variety of foods for a balanced diet. Maintain a sensible sleep routine.
- * Gain perspective. It's easy to lose your perspective and feel like life's a catastrophe. Discussing your troubles with someone you trust will allow you to gain a new perspective and can help you to move beyond what was perceived as negative.
- * Manage your time. Use a daytimer to schedule your commitments. Break down large tasks into smaller, more manageable ones. Prioritize your tasks into "must get done", "should get done" and "nice to get done".

To make an appointment for learning strategy assistance, visit the Student Services Office.

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Rugby team hopes for golden finish in fall

By ADAM BLACK

The Conestoga men's rugby team had a lot of success this past season, winning bronze in OCAA competition.

But, for next year's returning players, that wasn't good enough.

They began practising in late February, training three days a week in hopes of gold next year and defeating Seneca College, which has been undefeated in five years.

The rugby season begins in September so they're getting a very early jump on the competition.

Twice a week they take over the upper stands of the gym where they work on fitness and foot speed.

At the end of a session players are exhausted, sweat dripping from their faces. But, they feel the end

result is worth it.

Once a week the players meet at Doon Public School where they play an hour-long game of touch rugby.

This is to help the players get their passing and hand and feet work back into motion while playing a fun game.

Tim Steffler is a second-year student in architectural engineering and a rookie player this past season for the Condors. He says training early helps improve his endurance for the coming season and team flow.

"To work well as a team you have to know your teammates," says Steffler.

"It's good to get an idea of what the team will look like (next season), encourage new players to come out and meet the team. Even if they haven't played before, just let them come out and try the

game."

Richard Petan, a second-year robotics student, a veteran with the team, started and organizes the Condor training.

He says he hopes the training will help the team gel and know how the team plays together.

"I don't want our first game or two spent getting to know how the team works together," says Petan.

"I want the team to gel early so we can reach our full potential once the season starts."

The rugby team trains Mondays and Thursdays from 6 to 7 p.m. in the stands of the main gym at the rec centre.

They play touch rugby Wednesdays from 6 to 7 p.m. at Doon Public School.

For more information e-mail the coach, Jeff Desruisseau at spiderman@golden.net or Richard Petan at petan165@rogers.com.



(Photos by Adam Black)

The Condors men's rugby team practises in hopes of a gold medal come the fall semester.

V for Vendetta gets an E for effort

By MIKE BORS

Most movie fans would be simultaneously filled with D for dread and C for curiosity when they hear that the creators of the Matrix trilogy are at it again.

Larry and Andy Wachowski single-handedly changed the film industry in 1999 with the original Matrix, but its two sequels left fans disappointed and angry.

Well, they've redeemed themselves.

V for Vendetta delivers on what the Matrix sequels could not — good old-fashioned fun with an intriguing storyline.

Hugo Weaving (Mr. Smith to Matrix fans) plays V, a masked vigilante trying to rejuvenate some spirit into an Orwellianesque London by telling everyone to meet at the steps of Parliament on the fifth of November with the promise of big happenings.

Natalie Portman, shaved head and all, plays Evey, a woman who unluckily gets caught in the middle of his plot.

The film takes place over the course of a year when V encourages the people of London to join him at Parliament on the 5th of November which, not coincidentally, is Guy Fawkes Day.

The film is based on the cult graphic novel of the same name.

The fight scenes are exceptional but they are few and far between, which causes the movie to rely on the intricate plot

It is an intriguing concept that tries to be original but never lets us forget that it owes its existence to the Matrix.

That being said, it's still one hell of a ride.



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